Amendments to the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1 & 13, and cancel claims 11, 12 &14-30 (without prejudice), as set forth below. In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format published in the Official Gazette on February 25, 2003, a complete listing of claims is provided herein. The changes in the amended claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing request groups of a communications environment, said method comprising:

obtaining a plurality of request groups; [[and]]

tracking, by hardware of the communications environment, a dependency between at least multiple request groups of the plurality of request groups;

determining, based on the tracking, that a response for a request group of the plurality of request groups is to be sent to a communications processor of the communications environment;

checking, in response to being able to send the response, whether there are one or more successor request groups of the request group;

sending to the communications processor one or more responses for the one or more successor request groups, in response to the checking indicating there are one or more successor request groups; and

wherein the determining comprises determining whether there are one or more request groups that precede the request group, and checking, in response to the determining indicating that one or more request groups precede the request group, whether one or more responses for the one or more request groups that precede the request group have been sent to the communications processor.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining comprises grouping, by a communications processor of the communications environment, a plurality of requests for a plurality of tasks into the plurality of request groups.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a response for a request group of the at least multiple request groups to a communications processor of the communications environment in an order indicated by the tracking.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the communications processor is alleviated from determining order of responses.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the sending is facilitated by a memory response unit coupled to the communications processor, said memory response unit receiving the response from main memory.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the response is for at least one request of the request group, said at least one request being issued from said communications processor to a memory request unit coupled thereto, said memory request unit facilitating the sending of the at least one request to main memory.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dependency corresponds to an order in which one or more requests of the at least multiple request groups were issued from a communications processor of the communications environment.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hardware comprises a state data structure comprising at least one of a predecessor indicator specifying whether a request group of the at least multiple request groups has a predecessor and a successor indicator specifying whether the request group has a successor.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the state data structure is indexed by a task id of the request group.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the task id used to index into the state data structure is obtained from another data structure indexed by a tag, said tag identifying a read memory transaction corresponding to a request of the request group.

11-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[11]] 1, wherein the determining comprises ensuring that responses of any predecessor request groups of the request group have been sent to the communications processor.

14-30. (Canceled).

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